# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

Ryan Mitchell,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No.: CIV-13-1141-D

v.

GC Services, L.P.; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT AND
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

For this Complaint, Plaintiff, Ryan Mitchell, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* (the "FDCPA"), in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
- 2. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

#### **PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff, Ryan Mitchell ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Norman, Oklahoma, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

- 4. Defendant GC Services, L.P. ("GC"), is a Texas business entity with an address of 6330 Gulfton Street, Houston, Texas 77081, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 5. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by GC and whose identities are currently unknown to Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
  - 6. GC at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

### **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

# A. The Debt

- 7. Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to an original creditor (the "Creditor") for a federal student loan.
- 8. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes, which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 9. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to GC for collection, or GC was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 10. Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

# **B.** GC Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

11. Within the last year, GC called Plaintiff at his place of employment in an attempt to collect the Debt.

- 12. Plaintiff advised GC that the calls to his workplace were inconvenient and prohibited by his employer and therefore requested that GC cease calling his work number.
- 13. Nonetheless, GC continued calling Plaintiff at his place of employment in an attempt to collect the Debt.
- 14. In addition, Plaintiff entered into a rehabilitation program with GC and was making timely payments as agreed. GC assured Plaintiff that no further action would be taken as long as timely payments were received.
- 15. However, on or about August 13, 2013, GC began garnishing Plaintiff's wages.

# C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 16. Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 17. As a direct consequence of Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

# VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

18. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

- 19. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(3) in that Defendants contacted Plaintiff at his place of employment, despite knowing that Plaintiff's employer prohibited such communications.
- 20. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse Plaintiff in connection with collection of the Debt.
- 21. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e in that Defendants used false, deceptive and/or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 22. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.
- 23. Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f in that Defendants used unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 24. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA.
  - 25. Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendants:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
   \$1692k(a)(2)(A);
- 3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.

§ 1692k(a)(3);

- 4. Punitive damages; and
- 5. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: October 25, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

By <u>/s/ Sergei Lemberg</u>

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